

December 2022

Greetings Sister Churches of the Presbytery of NNY in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

As we are ushered into a new church year in this season of Advent we also enter a season of preparation; sitting in an in between time with the Holy Spirit as we live in God's kingdom ushered in by the baby Jesus, but not yet fulfilled in his anticipated and promised return.

As we wait, as the church gathered in the presence of our risen Lord, we are not to sit idle while God is actively at work. As a gospel community we are called in the name of Jesus to serve and be present in his name in the places where God sends and calls us to be. One of the ways of serving is through Ministries in the North Country. It has been present in the North Country for 33 years serving in the name of Jesus to meet the various needs of people. A ministry of the Presbytery, MINC maintains its own budget and consists of volunteers, a couple of paid part time staff, and some well used vehicles. Over time, the ministry has evolved from doing major house repairs with the assistance of work groups who came each summer for a week, to providing funding to meet emergency needs, and most recently the building of ramps to offer greater mobility for the homeowner.

As Jesus sent the disciples out to witness while he was still alive he sent them out simplistically with the bare minimum of clothing, no money and no food. They were fully reliant on the hospitality of others and were to stay put at the home they had entered, not going to another home that offered more. They weren't to ask for money either, rather that they would be seen authentic in their words and deeds as his disciples, not money collectors for the coffers. MINC has over the decades operated on a "shoestring" budget. To that end there is one year of funding left until its financial resources are exhausted. It has been many years since there was a capital campaign and MINC survives on the generosity of donations from congregations and individuals and is blessed and thankful for such generosity.

As we come to the end of the calendar year and begin a new church year your financial help is needed to sustain this Ministry in the North Country. Please share this letter with your finance and/or stewardship teams as well as your congregation that as a church or individually MINC would be included in your end of the year mission giving or a line provided in your 2023 church budget. Donations may be mailed to: MINC C/O Presbytery of NNY 311 Franklin Street Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669 or made electronically through the presbytery website online giving portal and marked MINC. On behalf of MINC thank you for your contributions and continued support of this ministry to the people of the North Country.

Merry Christmas and Peace be with you,
Rev. Betsy Westman
Acting Coordinator